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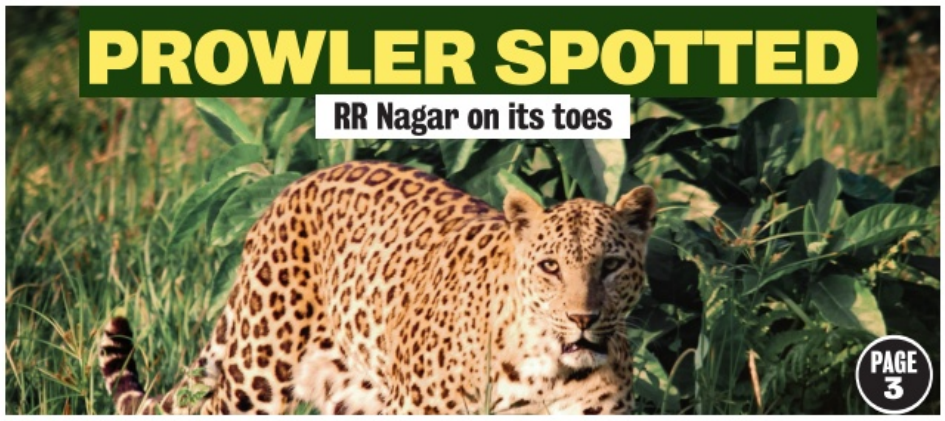
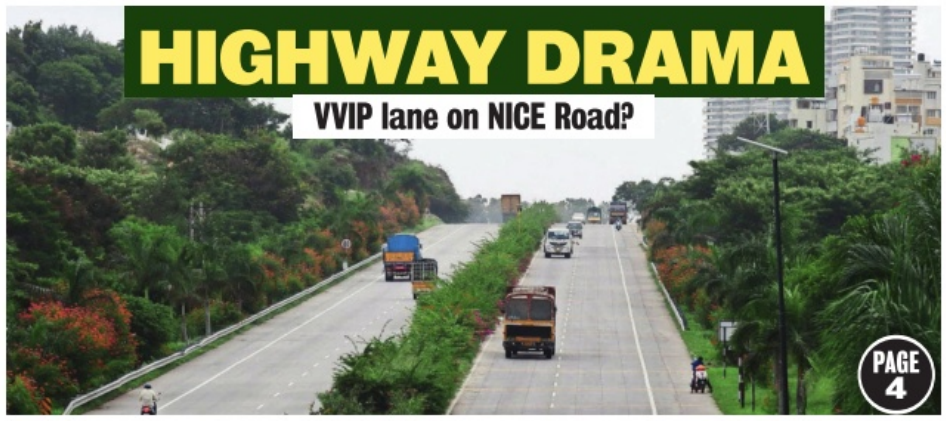
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 21 | Humidity 42% Clear Sky Sensex 73,057 | Nifty 22,196 | Gold 62,219 | Silver 71,440 | Dollar 82.93 | Euro 89.76 | GBP 104.86





After tragic electrocution, BESCOM identifies 90,351 hazardous locations across city zones and rectifies 59,212 spots

LIVEWIRE CUTTER

South circle most hazardous area with 21,226 spots

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After the chilling incident involving the electrocution of a mother and child in Whitefield, the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company has rectified 65.53% of the hazardous locations identified.

In total, BESCOM had identified 90,351 hazardous locations; thereafter the electricity supply company rectified 59,212 locations with 31,139 locations yet to be fixed.

After the fatal incident at Hopefarm signal in Whitefield where the mother and child died after coming into contact with a live 11 kV line, BESCOM launched the drive along with BBMP to identify hazardous locations in the city.

Between November 21, 2023 and January 31, 2024, BESCOM identified 90,351 hazardous locations across zones BMAZ, BRAZ and CTAZ; 68,000 were found in BMAZ alone.

As per the survey, BESCOM found 13,555 hazardous locations in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

KAUSHIK JN

“We have been unable to complete all locations due to manpower shortage — BESCOM official

Pits wide open

Can more rainwater harvesting pits augment groundwater recharge?

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) aims to enhance the number of rainwater harvesting pits within parks to augment groundwater recharge. An official BM spoke to said the plan is to implement over 1,000 harvesting pits across 117 parks.

“To achieve this, we are considering collaboration with a private agency and utilizing CSR funds, anticipating a positive impact on groundwater recharge.” In the fiscal year 2022-23, 966 harvesting pits were constructed at 83 parks, contributing significantly to local groundwater recharge. The authorities now intend to expand this initiative by increasing the number of harvesting pits,” the official stated.

The official explained that the goal is to install 1,000 harvesting pits, each with a cumulative capacity of up to 400 litres of water — the construction will commence soon.

Each harvesting pit is designed to be 12 feet in depth and five feet in width, with a capacity to store 400 litres of water during rainfall. The construction cost for one harvesting pit is approximately Rs 40,000;

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Handloom tapestry

Get ready for an exquisite showcase of India's rich cultural heritage at the 7th Edition of the Indian Craft Collective. Immerse yourself in a celebration of indigenous artistry, featuring a diverse range of silk & cotton sarees, arts and crafts, furniture, and much more. Show your support for "Made in India" and contribute to the conservation of our artistic heritage. **Where- Jayamahal Palace When- February 23 to March 3**

02 Laugh out loud

Join Kriyative Theatre for two hilarious shows of 'Aadaddella Olithe..?', a wholesome comedy based on the writings of T Sunanadamma. Scripted by Sunder and directed by Pramod Shiggaon, this play promises laughter and entertainment for all. **Where- Rangashankara; When- February 24, 3.30 pm to 7.30 pm**

03 Book launch

Join the launch of 'Can't' by acclaimed author Shinie Antony. Delve into the intriguing tale of Nena, a woman living in an unnamed town, whose life takes an unexpected turn when she embarks on a journey to track down her late husband's lovers. In "Can't," Antony's lyrical prose, filled with humour and raw wisdom, weaves a strangely compelling story that blurs the lines between fantasy and reality. Meet the author and discover the intriguing world of Nena and her quest for closure. **Where- Atta Galatta When- February 24**

Save water!

Students of St Joseph University promoting 'Neerathon', a water conservation run on campus. The marathon will be conducted on February 25, 2024.

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Morning glitch makes purple line users see red

Commuters frustrated as purple line faces technical glitch; driverless metro unveiled

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Metro services on the Purple Line (Whitefield – Chalaghatta) were disrupted in the city on Tuesday morning, causing inconvenience to office goers and students among other commuters who rely on the services provided by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) for transportation.

The corporation has said that the services between Byappanahalli and Garudacharpalya on the Purple Line were affected from 6.14 am to 9.20 am on Tuesday as a result of a technical snag. Officials from BMRCL said that there was a communication problem within the signalling system between Byappanahalli and Garudacharpalya, leading to real-time status updates for various data types being unavailable. The issue was resolved at 9.20 am, with train services normalised by 9.22 am.

Early in the morning, netizens began to call out the issue on social media sites, with pictures of crowding at stations like the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Majestic station and Vijayanagar. The official handle of BMRCL on X (formerly Twitter) posted the following at 8.45 am – "Trains operating at a slow speed between Byappanahalli and Garudacharpalya due to a technical snag. BMRCL is operating short loop services."

Later, at 9.33 am, another post said, "Technical snag on the Purple Line was rectified at 9.20 am, and trains are now operating at the scheduled speeds. However, it will take some additional time to normalise the cascading effects and resume operations as per the regular schedule".

Office goers and students, while noting that the disruption caused much inconvenience, complained that the BMRCL's delayed intimation regarding the issue was unacceptable. A frequent commuter who was caught in the midst of the commotion said that she was unable to clock in to work on time due to the matter. "If the disruption was widely publicised, I could have opted for another mode of transport," she said.

> **"If the disruption was widely publicised, I could have opted for another mode of transport**
> – A frequent metro user

Driverless trains first look

The BMRCL has released the first images of driverless trains that were imported from China last week. The two six-coach trains were unwrapped at Hebbagodi Depot in the city on Tuesday.

The driverless trains are being implemented as part of the communication-based train control (CBTC) signalling system. The CBTC signalling system is a modern communication-based system which utilises radio communication to transfer timely accurate train control information.

Further, BMRCL officials have said that the prototype train will be put through mainline testing on the 18.82 km stretch between RV Road and Bommasandra (Reach 5 – Yellow Line) by the month of March, after the train undergoes a series of tests at depot level such as signalling and tracking, among others, under the supervision of Chinese engineers. The mainline testing results will then be submitted to the chief commissioner of railway safety for review by the BMRCL. The entire process is expected to take four to five months before the yellow line is made operational.

The BMRCL purple line was closed for about half an hour on Tuesday morning causing inconvenience to many

Driverless Metro train for Yellow Line

Round-up of cases cracked, loot seized

KAUSHIK JN

Commissioner of Police B Dayananda and other officers

The commissioner of police on Tuesday spoke about the arrest of a notorious rowdy in Mumbai, who had been evading capture for a year. The culprit is facing charges in 10 Non-Bailable Warrant (NBW) cases and one proclamation case. Since 2014, the accused has been implicated in numerous criminal activities across police stations in the city.

Additionally, Mico Layout police have apprehended a man involved in a series of house burglaries. Authorities recovered stolen items, including 525 grams of gold jewelry, 550 grams of silver ornaments, two mobile phones, and a two-wheeler, all valued at Rs 30 lakh. Investigation revealed his involvement in 11 house break-ins within Mico Layout Police Station jurisdiction.

Jnanabharathi Police have detained two suspects linked to a spree of mobile and two-wheeler thefts. Investigation unveiled their modus operandi is posing as customers to distract shopkeepers/customers and then stealing their phones. They are also implicated in two-wheeler thefts. Officials seized stolen goods totalling Rs 11 lakh, including 41 mobile phones and five two-wheelers. —BMB

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Whispers of spotted prowler keeps RR Nagar on its toes

Forest officials get busy looking for direct evidence after talk of a leopard roaming around in area spreads on social media

According to conservationists leopards are seen in the area as they move through the Turahalli reserve forest

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For the last one week, residents of RR Nagar have been living in fear over rumours of leopard sightings in the area. Locals say the social media platforms are abuzz with the news of the big cat prowling in the area since February 11.

"In some CCTV footage from individual houses, the leopard can be seen strolling through a residential area in the wee hours of February 11 morning. People have been cautioned about the Leopard's movement. Many are worried about the presence of a big cat in the area," said a resident of RR Nagar.

Some residents claim they have sighted a leopard in the area on multiple occasions over the last six months.

"We had seen a leopard twice in six months in the area. It would move through the Turahalli reserve forest. However, apart from lifting dogs, it had not harmed any human beings. We should remember that RR Nagar was once a forested area where wolves, deer, black-naped hares were residents before it was converted into a residential layout," said Joseph Hoover, a resident of the area and founder of the United Conservation Movement and Charitable Trust.

Locals say they are more concerned as the area has a school with a total strength of nearly 3,000.

"As per the CCTV camera footage, the big cat was seen near Shaktihill Resort. Even in 2020, a leopard had attacked sheep and goat, hardly about two kilometers away from its current sighting. We have requested the forest department officials to put up a camera trap," added Hoover.

According to the Karnataka Forest Department, forest officials have been on their toes examining the area for pug marks and excreta for the last couple of days. However, no direct or indirect evidence has been found by the officials so far.

> **"RR Nagar was once a forested area where wolves, black-naped hares, deer were residents**
>
> —Joseph Hoover, environmentalist

"The report is not confirmed as we have not been able to locate pugmark or scats. KFD officials, however, are perambulating the area and searching for pug marks or dropping to confirm a big cat's presence. While the first alleged sighting was on February 11, we got to know about it only on Monday. Since then night patrolling and other required measures are being taken. We also do not have any confirmed news of street dogs taken away. We do not plan t o set camera traps as of now," said N Ravindra Kumar, deputy conservator of forests, Bengaluru Urban.

Luggage missing & police unhelpful

A certified mountain guide hailing from Sidri village in Uttarakhand lost his luggage during his journey from Salem, Tamil Nadu, to Bengaluru. Mukesh Pawar realised his luggage was missing upon his arrival at the Majestic station. Bengaluru Police, along with former Commissioner of Police, Bhaskar Rao, stepped in to address the issue.

Pawar, who had traveled to Salem to install and certify a rope course, boarded a Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) bus destined for Bengaluru, intending to catch a flight to Delhi thereafter. However, his belongings, which included Rs 30,000 in cash, a laptop, and a Samsung tablet, were nowhere to be found upon reaching his destination on the evening of February 12. Consequently, Pawar missed his scheduled flight to Delhi, compounding his distress.

Despite seeking assistance from the TNSTC bus staff, Pawar was redirected to approach the police for help, only to face challenges in filing a First Information Report (FIR) due to jurisdictional complications between the Majestic and Electronic City police stations. Pawar's plight gained traction after Anand Sankar, a friend of Pawar's uncle, shared the incident on social media, seeking help in locating the stolen items.

Former IPS officer and Bengaluru's Commissioner of Police, Bhaskar Rao, took note of the situation and offered guidance on the complaint procedure, advising Pawar to meet DCP CK Baba. —BMB

Cabbie ambushes and attacks wife

A cab driver allegedly attacked his wife with a machete while she was in the company of her companion on Wind Tunnel Road in Murugeshpalya. The woman, Nigar, sustained serious head injuries and is currently receiving medical treatment. Law enforcement swiftly intervened, apprehending the culprit Sheikh Mujib at the scene.

Nigar, aged 28, and Mujib, aged 37, have been married for six years but had been living separately for the past six months due to marital discord. Eyewitnesses recounted how Mujib ambushed Nigar and her companion, launching the violent assault. Prompt intervention by locals and law enforcement prevented further harm.

During police interrogation, Mujib confessed to the attack, citing Nigar's alleged involvement with another man as the motive. He claimed to have urged Nigar to quit her job and stay at home, suspecting her infidelity, but she defied his wishes and left their marital residence.

The premeditated nature of the attack emerged as Mujib disclosed purchasing the machete in advance from Shivaji Nagar and concealing it in a leather bag for the assault. Authorities have registered a case under IPC section 307 (attempt to murder). —BMB

Highway drama: VVIP lane on NICE Road?

Controversy brews as VVIPs demand special treatment on NICE Road, while toll collection and road construction continue to stir public frustration

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A view of the NICE Road

Do VVIPs need a dedicated lane for travelling on expressways? The State Government has proposed this, particularly at the NICE Road, but without any luck so far. In fact, the State Government has requested the Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise (NICE), which runs the Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC), to provide a dedicated VIP lane for VVIPs to travel on the NICE peripheral road. However, sources indicate that NICE has yet to respond positively to the request.

The NICE Road initially intended to connect Bengaluru and Mysuru, had made no headway due to protests and legal tangles. It currently links the periphery of Bengaluru between Tumakuru and Hosur roads. For long, VVIP travel has been a point of contention as people's representatives and authorities have taken exception to the collection of tolls at toll gates.

The VVIPs have been demanding that they be given the same privileges given on NHAI roads where they are exempted from paying any toll and also have a dedicated toll booth so that they can move smoothly. In fact, there have been instances in the past where ministers and even former PMs were stopped at the NICE road and asked to pay a toll.

During the recent Assembly session, Turuvekere MLA MT Krishnappa inquired about the measures taken as people representatives faced insults and embarrassment at the NICE toll gate, being demanded to pay the toll. Responding to this, PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi stated, "We have indeed received complaints about the insult. Hence, we have asked for a dedicated VIP lane for the legislators."

Despite the letter being written on September 14, 2021, NICE authorities have not responded. He further explained that an agreement was signed with BMIC on April 3, 1997, for the project. As per the agreement, the project construction time was set at 10 years, with an additional 30 years allocated for toll collection.

Meanwhile, toll collection at NICE has also faced criticism. Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar sought clarification from the government regarding approval for toll revision. Jarkhiholi clarified, "The toll collection was fixed in 2008 and then revised in 2010 and 2011. However, since then, the State Government has not received any proposals related to toll revision."

> **"The toll collection was fixed in 2008 and then revised in 2010 and 2011. However, since then, the State Government has not received any proposals related to toll revision**
> – Satish Jarkiholi, PWD Minister

Jarkiholi added that NICE was currently collecting Rs 2.45 as toll per kilometre on the peripheral road, Rs 6 for four-wheelers, and Rs 10.91 per kilometre for heavy truck vehicles. Meanwhile, the regular commuters have been demanding the NICE authorities to quickly complete the concretisation of roads as there have been frequent traffic jams on this road due to the ongoing work.

Walkers rally against annexe construction

Cubbon Park Walkers' Association persists in opposing plans for construction within the park, cites concerns over space encroachment and increased traffic; demands official order from government

GREENERY IS THE BREATH OF LIFE
CUBBON PARK WALKERS ASSOCIATION
OXYGEN FILLED PURE AIR IS OUR BIRTHRIGHT
SAVE THE URBAN WILDLIFE OF CUBBON PARK
DOWN DOWN
THE OFFICIALS WHO GAVE PERMISSION FOR CONCRETE STRUCTURES IN CUBBON PARK
SAVE ME
Members of Cubbon Park Walkers' Association protest against 10-storey building in Cubbon Park on Sunday

The Cubbon Park Walkers' Association is determined to continue its protest against the proposal to build an annexe building within the premises until the government issues an official order revoking its decision. The association plans to protest again this coming Sunday, seeking an official order from the government. Earlier, on February 11, hundreds of people had gathered at the Central Library in the Cubbon Park premises to voice their opposition.

The protesters argue that the proposed building, besides encroaching upon the park area, will lead to an increase in both human and vehicular traffic. "We urge the government to immediately rescind the order," stated the Cubbon Park Walkers' Association. The plan to construct a 10-storeyed annexe has been on hold for the past five years due to opposition from heritage activists and environmentalists, who consider Cubbon Park as the city's largest lung space.

The Horticulture Department has conducted several meetings regarding the matter. If the construction were to proceed, it would involve demolishing the old Election Commission (EC) building, where the new building is proposed to be situated, between the Press Club and the old KGIB building. However, in October 2019, the Karnataka High Court granted the government the right to construction in place of the old Election Commissioner's office after its demolition according to an approved plan, as long as it does not involve cutting down trees. — BMB

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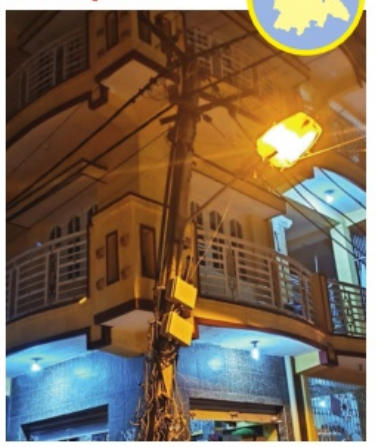
Petty problems
Kodigehalli

A petty shop near the main road is causing inconveniences to pedestrians and obstructing visibility, posing a risk of accidents.

Lousy lamp
Govindpura


A lamp post at 12th Cross, Umar Nagar, is causing risks for nearby buildings and customers visiting shops. Despite multiple complaints to BESCOM, no action has been taken.

Debris destruction
Rest House Road

Debris has been uncleared near the BBMP park for more than eight months, obstructing pedestrian movement.

Volunteers uncover tar treatment for saplings

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Around 50 saplings seen to have been planted on thin layer of mud below which is a tarred road

In a recent incident reported by Hasiru Ratha, a dedicated group of volunteers committed to caring for and maintaining plantations in South Bengaluru, a contractor's substandard work on the median near Sevakshetra Hospital in Banashankari Second Stage has come under scrutiny.

Approximately 50 saplings were planted, but the volunteers revealed that beneath the media soil layer is the tarred road, raising doubts about the survival of the newly planted greenery. Members of Hasiru Mithra, a subdivision of Hasiru Ratha, pointed out that during the planting process, a layer of mud and, beneath that, the tar road was seen. Allegedly, the contractors failed to address this issue, resulting in inadequate planting depth and this could lead to the deaths of plants.

Despite planting the saplings, no further measures were taken, leaving the area vulnerable to long-term survival challenges. It is now suggested that additional steps need to be taken, such as removing the mud, employing a tractor driller to penetrate the tar, and ensuring proper planting depth to facilitate the healthy growth of the saplings.

The Hasiru Ratha members themselves have come forward to fix the issue. They have started fixing it by getting the tractor and ensuring proper planting of the saplings.

A member of Hasiru Ratha expressed disappointment with the work of the contractor. "In many instances of new plantations, we've observed subpar work. While some native species may endure, not every plant can survive these conditions. Contractors often neglect necessary maintenance, compromising the overall success of the plantations," the volunteer said.

Arkavathi stretch at TG Halli Reservoir hits pollution rock-bottom

Biological Oxygen Demand that indicates levels of pathogenic bacteria at high level

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A view of Tippagondanahalli reservoir's catchment area

There in no improvement in the water quality of Arkavathi River in recent years. The river stretch at TG Halli Reservoir has now recorded an all-time high value of Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), indicating highly polluted water.

The recent water quality report of the river by Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) shows that the BOD value has gone up to 21, the highest recorded since the Centre's National Water Monitoring Program (NWMP) started in 2018. The BOD value in December 2018 was recorded to be 4.

Biological indicators' density in the water, showing high organic pollution has also surged since 2018. While the total coliform bacteria in 2018 was 3,500 MPN/100 ml, it has gone up to 35,00,000 MPN/100 ml in December 2023.

The amount of faecal coliform bacteria has also increased multifold. The total faecal coliform level recorded in December 2018 was 300MPN/100 ml. This has increased to 46,000 MPN/100 ml. Thus, the dissolved oxygen (DO) value has dropped significantly (from 5.2 mg/l in December 2018 to 1.8mg/l in December 2023).

As per CPCB standards, the BOD level for drinking water source after conventional treatment and disinfection is 20. The permissible level of faecal coliform bacteria in water bodies considered suitable for bathing, contact water sport and commercial fisheries is 100 MPN/100 ml. In water bodies suitable only for industrial cooling, aesthetics, navigation, and controlled waste disposal, the permissible level of faecal coliform bacteria is 500 MPN/100 ml.

Ecologists say a high BOD value indicates high levels of pathogenic bacteria indicating eutrophic condition. This implies that water is not potable, and houses unhealthy aquatic animals and plants.

They say if the BOD value is consistently high and increasing over time, measures should be taken to improve the water quality.

"While high BOD is an outcome of a stagnant river stretch and should improve during monsoon and summer, surge in the value over the last few years during a given season is worrisome. Stagnant water also leads to the growth of invasive species

"While high BOD is an outcome of a stagnant river stretch and should improve during monsoon and summer, the increase in the value over the last few years during a given season is worrisome. Authorities must bear in mind stagnant water also leads to the growth of invasive species, further depleting the dissolved oxygen and creating a conducive environment for some types of exotic species, hampering biodiversity overall," said a city-based ecologist.

Experts highlight that while coliform bacteria found in the soil, in water, and in human or animal waste do not usually cause any serious illness, their presence indicates presence of other pathogenic organisms of faecal origin. Presence of faecal coliform indicates that the water has been contaminated with the faecal material of humans or other animals. Faecal coliform bacteria enter rivers through the direct discharge of human sewage.

Poor regulation

Experts blame the high level of pollution on poor regulatory mechanisms in place. They allege the state pollution control board has not been able to bring down pollution levels as it has not taken action against the culprits. "KSPCB has become a monitoring agency, instead of a pollution control body. The idea behind NWMP and other such programs is not just to monitor the pollution level but to also mitigate it. The board must take action under Polluters Pay Principle and should also come up with location-specific recommendations to improve water quality. Contamination of rivers is not just from untreated sewage but also from industries and agricultural runoff," said V Ram Prasad, founder, Friends of Lakes.

Under NWMP, KSPCB tests the river water for dissolved oxygen (DO) level, biochemical oxygen demand, total coliform, and fecal coliform levels.

Cong candidate wins bypoll, setback for BJP-JD(S) alliance

Congress candidate P Puttanna on Tuesday won the by-election to the Karnataka Legislative Council from Bangalore Teachers' Constituency.

He defeated his nearest opponent A P Ranganath, a joint candidate of the BJP-JD(S) alliance by a margin of 1,507 votes.

This defeat is seen as a setback for the BJP-JD(S) combine, as it was the first election they fought together after the regional party joined the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in September last year.

Both parties will be fighting the upcoming Lok Sabha polls together for which seat sharing talks are on.

Of the 16,541 votes cast during the polls held on February 16, Puttanna had secured a total of 8,260 votes, followed by 6,753 votes by Ranganath. 1,239 votes were rejected.

Nine candidates contested the election

The bypoll was necessitated as Puttanna, who was representing the Bangalore Teachers' constituency as a BJP candidate, resigned from the post to switch to the Congress to contest the 2023 Assembly polls from the Rajajinagar constituency. He was defeated by BJP's Suresh Kumar.

Commenting on the poll results, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the bypoll result makes it clear that the people have not accepted the BJP-JD(S) alliance.

The secular mask of JD(S) has come off after it decided to ally with the BJP and the people have given a "tight slap to JD(S)' communal avatar", he said in a statement. **PTI**

Water tanker issue boils up: Deputy CM responds

Assembly discusses need for govt to take over, fix rate for water tankers to prevent exploitation of consumers

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday was drawn into a debate on the rising rates of water supplied by private tankers in Bengaluru after opposition BJP MLAs raised the issue in the state assembly.

Shivakumar said that he would consider suggestions by BJP MLAs to fix a rate for water tankers to prevent exploitation of consumers and government takeover of tankers and borewells during summer. During the debate, he also revealed that water from the Cauvery Fifth stage scheme will be supplied by April or May to the 110 villages newly added to Bengaluru.

Raising the issue in the Karnataka Assembly BJP MLA BA Basavaraja (Byrathi) demanded that Cauvery fifth stage water should be provided to 110 villages which were added to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in 2006.

In response, Shivakumar said, "Here we have members from both the parties. If everyone comes to a consensus then I am ready to... (do it). I have no objection over it. It should work out for the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB)."

"Cauvery 5th stage will be implemented in April or May," he added. On the issue of water supply, Shivakumar said the BWSSB also draws water from borewells on some occasions and supplies them to people, but said that the agency does not have any control over private borewells.

Private water tankers provide water to many parts of the city

"They are also fetching water and supplying. Ultimately they don't have any control (over private borewells). It (water) is a big business. We could not try for it (to control water tankers). Let there be some relief to the people till the Cauvery water is supplied," he said.

Basavaraja told the House that water suppliers are unable to meet the demand. He pointed out that the tankers were providing water only if residents paid more money.

"When there is huge demand, they will increase the rate. Fix a rate like Rs 750-800. It will help people," the BJP MLA said. Responding to him, Shivakumar said he would convene a meeting soon.

"Give me a joint memorandum. We will hold a meeting. You have given a good suggestion. Tanker people are charging Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,000 per tanker. The groundwater too belongs to the government. We have control over it. There are various laws regarding where to drill the borewell. I can consider this request," he said.

> **"When there is huge demand, they will increase the rate. Fix a rate like Rs 750-800. It will help people**
>
> –BA Basavaraja, BJP MLA

Participating in the discussion, Leader of Opposition (LoP) R Ashoka sought to know what the next course of action would be if there was no water even after existing borewells were redrilled.

Ashoka noted that Cauvery water had declined by 30 per cent. As there was no water in borewells, people were demanding Cauvery water, he claimed.

"There are restrictions by BWSSB to drill new borewells. You need to remove them. We have four more months to face summer. If it was just one month, we would have adjusted but we have four months to go," Ashoka said. Noting that the situation would further deteriorate as the weather department has predicted a rise in temperature by three degrees, the LoP suggested that the government could take over private borewells under the revenue laws and distribute water to everyone. The deputy commissioners at the districts have the power to do this, he said. —PTI

IN BRIEF

Immunosphere: Revolutionising immunology

Scientist and social entrepreneur Swetha Kannan, a PhD scholar at the University of Cambridge, and Oncologist Dr Vishal Rao of Bengaluru have launched 'Immunosphere' to enhance immunology education and research in India. Supported by grants and a commitment to innovation, Immunosphere aims to inspire the next generation of immunologists and contribute to global health advancements.

As the first initiative of its kind in India, Immunosphere focuses on providing enhanced immunology education and research opportunities for high school, college, and medical students in medicine and biosciences. Recognising the urgent need for greater immunology education and awareness in low and middle-income countries (LMICs), Swetha Kannan emphasises the importance of effective communication of research for scientific success.

Dr Vishal Rao, a member of Karnataka's Vision Group for Biotechnology, highlights government support. They have initiated talks, workshops, a public-access immunology journal, and collaborations with research institutes and medical colleges nationwide.

Their efforts aim to elevate India's presence in global immunology research, particularly in cancer immunology, positioning India at the forefront of biomedical education and research through a blend of education, innovation, and advocacy.

—BMB

BM Education

Unhealthy eating trends: Threat to B'luru students

CAMPUS NOTES

Bengaluru, known as the Silicon Valley of India, boasts a vibrant academic scene with numerous universities and colleges attracting students from across the country and even abroad. However, amidst the bustling academic life and the city's rich cultural milieu, many students find themselves falling into unhealthy habits and eating patterns, with potentially dire consequences for their long-term health and well-being.

The reasons behind this unhealthy lifestyle trend are varied but often intersecting. Mugdha Srivastava, an undergraduate studying Psychology, reflects on the challenges faced by students, stating, "It does, to some extent, feel that all my batchmates, including me, have an unhealthy lifestyle. A lot of us sleep late due to assignments, commitments at our clubs and committees that we are a part of, or work from jobs/internships, which then means that our bodies are functioning with barely 4-5 hours of rest. Then, in order to rest longer, we often skip breakfast as well, which isn't the most healthy start to a day. Further on, we are then no longer left with any time or energy to engage in physical activities."

Financial constraints exacerbate the issue, as students must manage their expenses within the limited monthly allowances provided by their guardians. After accounting for necessities, many students opt for cheaper, often nutritionally deficient food options. This frugal approach to nutrition often results in smaller portion sizes and reliance on snacks lacking in essential nutrients.

Moreover, the prevalence of fast-food joints and eateries around college campuses contributes significantly to unhealthy food habits among Bangalore college students. From oily snacks at roadside stalls to calorie-laden beverages at trendy cafes, students are inundated with tempting yet nutritionally deficient food options. These establishments prioritise taste and convenience over nutritional value, making it all too easy for students to indulge in unhealthy eating habits.

Riya Reji, a master's student pursuing English, highlights the challenges of maintaining a balanced diet amidst the demands of college life. "College really takes a toll on the average food-sleep habit; it rounds up to accessibility and time most of the time. If I run late, my first meal would barely be coffee. Usually, breakfasts and lunches are skipped, and mainly we rely on our comfort food, which is junk most of the time."

The hectic lifestyle of college students, characterised by demanding academic schedules, extracurricular activities, and part-time jobs, leaves little time or energy for preparing nutritious meals. Consequently, students often resort to quick-fix solutions such as fast food or packaged snacks, which are high in fat, sugar, and sodium but low in essential nutrients. Furthermore, peer influence plays a significant role, with social gatherings and late-night study sessions revolving around unhealthy food choices.

—Anurati Nair

HEALTH TIP: Maintaining a healthy lifestyle with a balanced diet rich in fruits and vegetables will contribute towards overall skin health

Consuming almonds may boost post-exercise muscle recovery, performance

TRYING TO STAY FIT IN 2024?

Here's how to stick to your resolutions

Asha Chowdary
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As the second month of the New Year rolls in, many of us will ruefully admit that we have slipped up yet again in our attempt to stick to our fitness goals.

Don't despair! There are many ways to keep fit this year, says Mita Pattanayak, Co-Founder CrossFit 9 One gym, situated in Indiranagar. This Bengaluru-based entrepreneur who works out in the gym 4-5 hours a day, believes that fitness goals can be achieved with a bit of determination and a lot of hard work.

Studies have shown that the failure rate of most New Year's resolutions is around 80% with most people breaking all their resolutions and losing all motivation by mid-February. If your fitness goals of the year seem unreachable, you can take inspiration from this young athlete, who left a lucrative job in sales to pursue her dream of ultimate fitness.

Pattanayak, who was placed fourth on the leaderboard of CrossFit Opens recently, says that persistence is the key, when it comes to success in any endeavour.

In a free-wheeling interview with Bangalore Mirror, Pattanayak offers insights into the world of gyms, exercises and diets and how to stick to your New Year goals till December 2024 and beyond.

When the New Year begins, many of us have big plans to become fit. Why do many of these plans fail?

Do you know why New Year's fitness resolutions often flop? It's usually because folks can't stick with it. And this is usually because they are not able to find a workout that they genuinely enjoy. Also, if a gym community doesn't feel like a second home, it can place a downer on your whole fitness journey. So, choose both your gym and workouts carefully.

Can you tell us about yourself?

I was working in a steady job in the sales department of a corporate firm for three years. Although I was able to make time for workouts at the regular gyms, I realised I had become way too comfortable in life and wasn't achieving my fitness goals. That's when I thought, "Maybe it's time to take a break from the beer and focus more on the biceps." I decided to take a break from my 9-to-5 life and pursue fitness full-time. I became the Co-Founder of CrossFit9One gym, and believe me, it has been like a roller coaster ride for me ever since.

What kind of exercises do most fitness enthusiasts want in 2024?

Recently, we've noticed a shift in choices when it comes to choosing a fitness programme, as many gym-goers want a bit of everything in their fitness routines - like strength training, body-weight movements and cardio.

What is the best way to succeed in losing weight and staying fit?

It is important to remember that fitness isn't all about shedding kilos. It's about keeping the body moving, and making sure your body can keep up with you, no matter what your age is. Besides regular exercise, eating balanced meals cooked at home should also be a significant part of your fitness programme.

Do strict diets work?

Strict diets and calorie restrictions might work faster but they also lose their magic just as quickly. You need to find the right balance. At each meal, make sure you are getting plenty of protein, some good fats, some carbs, and plenty of fibre.

What fitness exercises would be best for those who want to stay fit?

To begin with, don't worry about losing weight. You need to keep yourself active and learn how to get stronger and pack on some good muscle. We've seen many people join us thinking they're going to drop some kilos, but once they stick to their fitness regimen, they shift gears. They stop stressing about weight and start focusing on getting stronger and moving better.

Many young people have had cardiac arrests in gyms recently. What would you say is the reason?

People forget that hitting the gym is just one hour out of a 24-hour day. Heart health is not just about how much you sweat for a short while, but also about what you're eating and whether you're taking the right supplements or if you are doing anything that might not be good for you.

What are some of the newest exercise trends in the fitness space today that you would also recommend?

I have noticed these fitness trends lately…

- More people are participating in marathons
- A lot of people are now interested in Calisthenics, which is a form of strength training that uses the resistance of your body and gravity to help strengthen your muscles and improve your coordination, endurance and mobility.
- Group fitness classes are getting popular as they help people come together as a community.

What advice would you give to people who follow extreme diets?

First off, don't get roped into all the diet and exercise advice from influencers or celeb diets you see on social media. Remember, many celebrities have a team of nutritionists and fitness coaches behind them. The only real diet is a balanced one, packed with proteins and good fats.

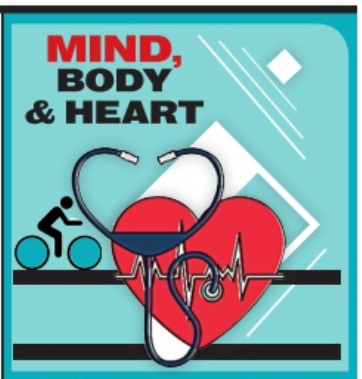
How many hours must a person exercise to stay fit and keep weight in check?

If one's aim is general fitness then even 1 hour of workout session is more than enough. It should be a mix of cardio and weights, but I would suggest a heavier focus on weight training as it improves muscle mass percentage, the metric which I believe is essential for general fitness.

What is your fitness advice to Bengaluru's fitness seekers?

I feel people should keep their exercise programme simple. Here are a few ways to keep fit…

- Lift weights 3 days a week
- Make sure you are active throughout the day and have a goal to achieve 7k to 10k steps
- Eat home-cooked protein-rich food
- Find a good gym in your neighbourhood for your workouts and show up every day to stay fit.



All you need to know about...

Excess protein

At risk
While eating protein is essential for good health, US researchers have discovered a molecular mechanism by which excessive dietary protein could increase atherosclerosis risk.

What is atherosclerosis
Atherosclerosis is the build-up of fats, cholesterol and other substances in and on the artery walls.

22% too much
The study, which combined small human trials with experiments in mice and cells in a Petri dish, showed that consuming over 22 per cent of dietary calories from protein can lead to increased activation of immune cells that play a role in atherosclerotic plaque formation, driving the disease risk.

Amino acid link
Furthermore, the scientists showed that one amino acid -- leucine -- seems to have a disproportionate role in driving the pathological pathways linked to atherosclerosis, or stiff, hardened arteries.

Ways of modifying diets
"Our study shows that dialing up your protein intake in pursuit of better metabolic health is not a panacea. You could be doing real damage to your arteries," said Babak Razani, Professor at University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. "Our hope is that this research starts a conversation about ways of modifying diets in a precise manner that can influence body function at a molecular level and dampen disease risks," Razani added.

Protein load
"Perhaps blindly increasing protein load is wrong," Razani said. "It's important to look at the diet as a whole and suggest balanced meals that won't inadvertently exacerbate cardiovascular conditions, especially in people at risk of heart disease and vessel disorders." —IANS

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Note: Walk in interview from Feb 19th, 2024 onwards

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Teachers' requirement for the Academic Year 2024-25

Sl.No.	Wing	Subject	Qualification
1.	Middle School	Social Studies	M.A., B.Ed.
2.	Middle School and High School	Social Studies Mathematics Biology, Physics Chemistry, English	M.Sc., B.Ed.

Note: Walk in interview from Feb 19th, 2024 onwards

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BBMP Property Tax Amendment Bill passed in Assembly

Boon for tax-payers, says DKS even as Bommai slams it as favour to rich builders

The tax-payer friendly BBMP Amendment Bill 2024, which brings down the penalty on property tax dues by 50% in Bengaluru city limits, was passed in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also the Bengaluru City Development minister, tabled the Bill in the Legislative Assembly in the post lunch session. With the passing of this Bill, the penalty amount is halved, saving Bengalureans a whopping Rs 2,700 crore. The BBMP will be able to collect penalties worth Rs 1,000 crore.

This amendment will benefit a total of 13-15 lakh people in Bengaluru city including 5.51 lakh tax payers, 5-7 lakh people outside the property tax bracket and 3 lakh partial property tax payers. The Bill has a provision for a special rebate

to poor segments of the society. Government residential buildings, buildings in slums are exempt from property tax penalties. Buildings up to 1,000 square feet which are used for own use are exempt from property tax penalties.

Under the Amendment Bill, penalties on residential and mixed-use properties will have to pay property tax penalties only for a maximum period of five years irrespective of the default duration. Interest has been waived off for dues beyond five years.

"This is a tax payer friendly amendment. We have brought this Bill to help the common people though it is a burden on the government," said Shivakumar. He claimed that Bengalureans had to pay heavy penalties as the previous BJP government had passed the previous amendment bill which doubled the penalties on property tax dues resulting in a huge burden on the property tax payers.

However, former CM Basavaraj Bommai said the amendment to the BBMP Act would help the big builders to indulge in irregularities.

He said the amendment was like a boon for the rich and influential builders. "The BJP would oppose the bill tooth and nail as it would pave way for a big irregularities. Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar must review the same because it would not benefit farmers in any manner. A similar proposal had come during his tenure as the CM but it was rejected. Already, Bengaluru has become a city without planning and it would continue to do so. It would cause more problems. So, this bill would be opposed by BJP," he added.

Jaya's jewels to be handed over to TN govt

A special court in Bengaluru has said 27 kg of gold and diamond jewelry -- part of the material evidence in the disproportionate assets case against former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister late J Jayalalithaa and others — would be handed over to the neighbouring state's government on March 6 and 7, paving the way for unlocking value of the assets to mobilise the Rs 100 crore fine imposed on her.

While 20 kg could be sold or auctioned, the remaining was exempted by the Court on Monday considering the fact that the late Jayalalithaa inherited them from her mother.

Judge HA Mohan, presiding over the XXXII Additional City Civil & Sessions court, had last month directed the transfer of valuables seized from Jayalalithaa to the Tamil Nadu government.

The TN Government will then take necessary action on the disposal of these gold and diamond jewellery, it had said.

The trial was held in Karnataka on the direction of the Supreme Court and therefore all material evidence is in the Karnataka treasury now under the custody of the court. **PTI**

Your Connect

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nithin Kumar S, s/o Sampath (late) aged about 36 years residing at No.140, 2nd main, 6th cross, 1st stage, 5th phase, WOC Road, Mahaganapathinagar, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010 do hereby declare that I have changed my minor son's name from AVYAAN N to AVYAAN ABHYUDAY, henceforth he shall be known and called as AVYAAN ABHYUDAY for all future purposes, vide affidavit dated 23-01-2024, sworn before Notary: Manjula K.S at B'lore

I, Sandra Darwin D/o Johnny Donald Darwin aged about 20 years residing at No.406, 4th Floor, Garuda Palace Apts, Thirumenahalli,Yelahanka,B'luru-560064 wish to state that my my father's name is incorrectly printed as Johny Darwin in my 10th standard marks sheet. It has to be corrected to Johnny Donald Darwin as per his Aadhaar card and PAN card vide affidavit dtd: 29/01/2024 sworn before notary G R Ravichandra Reddy, Bengaluru.

I, Vijayalakshmi Devaraje Gowda Dasara Kopplu W/o S R Jayanna R/o 363/1, 1st cross, Ravi Kirloskar Lyt, Nagasandra, Chikkabidirukallu, B'luru 560073 have changed my name to Vijayalakshmi Affidavit Dt.20/02/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, P SHIVASHANKAR SWAMY R/at No.9-10, Chamundi Vihar Layout, Nazarbad, Mysuru - 570010 here by declare that P SHIVASHANKAR SWAMY and P SHIVASHANKARA SWAMY both the names belongs to me only, vide affidavit dated: 19.02.2024 sworn before notary Devaraja .E, B.lore.

ANUSHKA Sawale, C108, Himagiri Enclave-2, Block C, Kaggadasapura Main Road, 25th Cross, C V Raman Nagar, Bangalore-560093, have changed my name to Anushka Datta Sawale vide affidavit dated 20-2-2024 sworn before notary A R Muneer Ahmed

I, Madhav Joshi S/o Pandurang, R/o No.2766A, Near Kumbar Well, Joshi Galli, Athani, Belagavi 591304, today camped at Bengaluru, have changed my name to Madhav Pandurang Joshi affidavit Dt.20/02/2024 Notary Harisha G, Bengaluru

I, Tamil Chelvi Sivagnanam W/O Sivagnanam M residing at No.15, Shiva Nilaya, 3rd cross, Ayyappa Layout , Marathahalli, B'lore-37 have changed my name to Tamil Selvi vide affidavit dated 19th Feb 2024 sworn before notary Sreedharan Nair P.N, Bangalore.

I, SHANU SINGH DADIALA, Residing at, No.25/1, House No 0104, 2nd Cross, Basapura, Hosur Main Road, Electronic City, Bengaluru-560100, have changed my name to SHANU SINGH, vide Affidavit dated:20.02.2024, Sworn before Notary, R. Vishwanath, Bangalore.

I Swapna Moodanahalli nataraj W/o Karthik Prabhakar R/o #006 1st Floor Global Meadows 3rd Main Beml 7th Stage Mylasandra Rv Niketan B'luru 560059 have changed my name to Swapna Moodnahalli Nataraj for all purposes.

I, Nirmal Bhagaram R/o 12, 2nd Flr, 1st cross, DK lane, Huriopet, Chickpet, Bengaluru 560053 have changed my minor daughter name Riddhi to Riddhi Nirmal Affidavit Dt.20/02/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Raghuram Reddy S/o Govardhan Reddy Krishna Reddy R/o #89,Krishna Reddy Colony, Domlur Layout B'luru 560071 have changed my name to Raghuram Reddy Govardhan Reddy for all purposes

I Raghuram Reddy.G R/o No 89, krishna Reddy Colony, Domlur Layout, Bengaluru 560071 have changed my minor son's name from Aditya Raghuram to Aditya Raghuram Reddy for all purposes.

WE, Shahidunnisa shariff & Shakeel shariff, R/at No. 303, 4th D Cross, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Bangalore-560043, have changed our minor daughter name from ARIANNA SHARIFF to AIRA SHARIFF For All Purposes.

I vijaya ramani W/o lalith ramani R/o No 306 Brindhavan mansion No 100 bull temple road Gavipuram Extension Basvangudi Banglore 560019 have changed my name to Vijaya lalith ramani

I Chand Basha R/o 2064, 5 cross, kodicamp, galihalli cross Tarikere 577228 chickmaglore karnataka. Have changed my name to Chand Pasha.

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65.53% of hazardous locations fixed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the North Circle, 11,413 locations in the East, 18,639 locations in the West and 24,393 locations in the South.

As of January 31, 2024, BESCOM has rectified 52,871 (77.75%) hazardous locations and is yet to rectify 15,129 locations in the BMAZ area.

The most hazardous locations were identified in South Circle where BESCOM has rectified 21,226 locations. A maximum number of hazardous locations yet to be identified have been found at North Circle - 5,687 locations, followed by 4,223 locations in East, 3,167 locations in South and 2,052 locations in West Circle.

According to BESCOM data, 22.24% of hazardous locations are yet to be rectified in the city.

"It's a continuous process to identify hazardous locations. We have been unable to complete all locations due to manpower shortage," said a senior BESCOM official.

BESCOM officials highlighted the live wire that killed the mother and child was found on the footpath at Hopefarm signal due to pending BBMP work.

"BBMP had proposed an underpass at Hopefarm signal and we wanted to complete the laying of the underground cables after the completion of the civil work. In the interim, the cables were left at ground level.

The live wire fell on the paver block which prevented the line supply from being cut off. Ideally, the connection is cut off within a fraction of a second," said a BBMP official.

However, in zones BRAZ and CTAZ, the BESCOM has only rectified 28.37% of the locations identified. Within BRAZ and CTAZ, BESCOM identified 22,351 locations and has only attended to 6,341 locations. There are 16,010 locations still pending rectification work.

Push for more rainwater harvesting pits

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the BBMP estimates a total cost of Rs 4 crore for the construction of all harvesting pits.

Officials stressed on the substantial benefits of harvesting pits, citing the prevalent issue of lakes, wells, and borewells drying up in Bengaluru over the years.

The harvesting pits will play a crucial role in recharging groundwater, subsequently raising the water table. In parks, this initiative will aid in recharging the groundwater essential for the well-being of trees.

The selection of parks for implementing harvesting pits is strategic, considering Bengaluru's extensive park network and the diverse plant life within them. The insufficient water supply for maintaining these plants, leading to some drying up,

prompted the need for a solution. With the new plan, rainwater can be stored in harvesting pits for future use when there is no rainfall. Additionally, observations indicate that borewells within the range of 50 to 60 metres from harvesting pits experience significant recharge. Given Bengaluru's annual rainfall of around 845 mm, much of the rainwater currently flows into drains. Consequently, the BBMP is now focusing on harnessing and conserving rainwater through the proposed harvesting pit initiative.

An official said rainwater harvesting contributes significantly to the reduction of soil erosion.

"As rainwater is captured and directed into storage systems, the erosive force of water runoff is curtailed. This not only safeguards soil fertility but also protects ecosystems from the adverse effects of erosion, fostering a healthier and more sustainable environment. The upfront investment in harvesting infrastructure is outweighed by the long-term savings on water bills. Individuals and institutions alike can witness a substantial reduction in their dependence on costly municipal water, channeling financial resources towards other essential needs."

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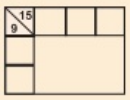
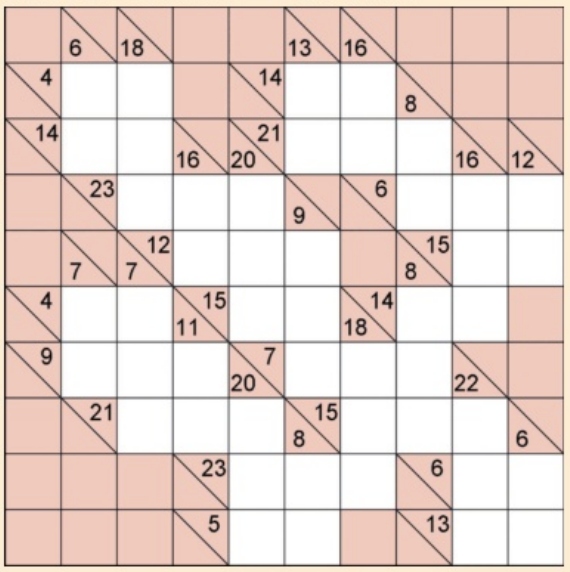
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

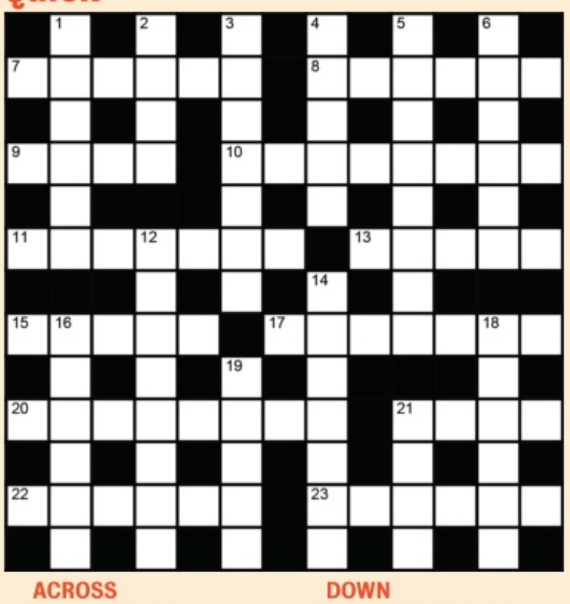


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Large desert (6)
8 Defeated and put to flight (6)
9 __ __ example : e.g. ? (2,2)
10 Able to count (8)
11 Butt in (7)
13 Rays of light (5)
15 Small gaiters (5)
17 Rower (7)
20 An unopposed or easy victory (8)
21 A passageway (4)
22 Wrongdoer (6)
23 Edge or limit (6)

DOWN

1 Squeals or complains about? (4,2)
2 Obtain more (4)
3 Official language of Karnataka (7)
4 Former US President Donald ___ (5)
5 Groups of four (8)
6 Final section of large intestine (6)
12 Gaining back (8)
14 Capital of Kenya (7)
16 Tranquil (6)
18 Everything ready (3,3)
19 Egg producer (5)
21 Difficult (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: P EQUALS G

ZDUR DE G XGZR XKZQ AI GL DQDKX, UJZZ KU EKJLQ GLQ UJFI, EDPLDUIDLP LKXNDLP.

Linemaro

If a star fell for every time I thought of you, the sky would be empty.

Mindchow

Adults are just outdated children.

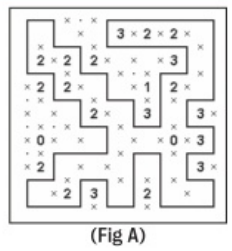
Joke of the day

Q: What do you get when you cross a gorilla and a computer?
A: Hairy Reasoner

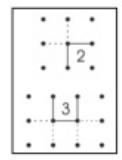
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

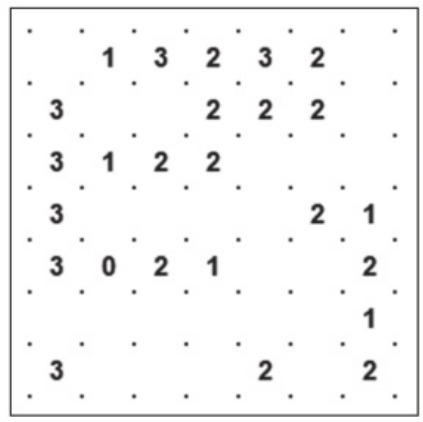


(Fig B) Not Allowed

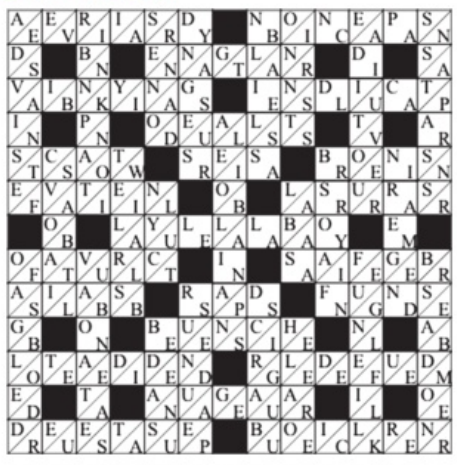
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

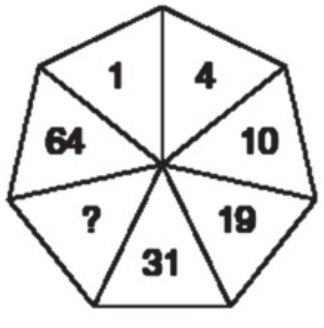
1 Trons; 6 Tigre; 7 Lay is; 8 D Fees; 9 Rifts

DOWN

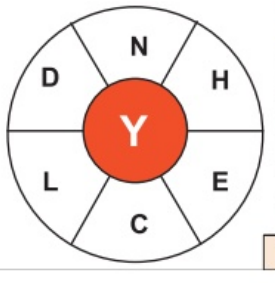
1 Tiffs; 2 I sine; 3 Or leg; 4 Dares; 5 St Try

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			3		6			
	4	2	9		1	6	5	
6								9
1	8	6				5	9	7
3	5	9				2	1	4
5								6
	1	3	2		4	8	7	
			7		8			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

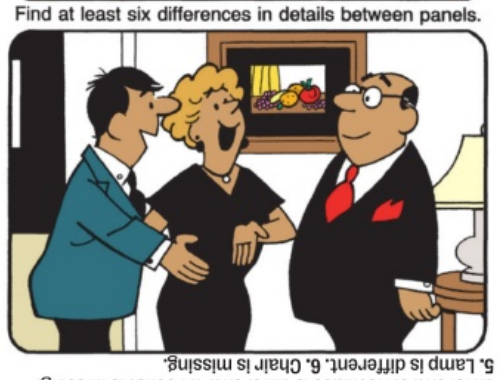
Easy = 13
2 5 7 9

Medium = 28
2 3 5 9

Hard = 7
2 4 5 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



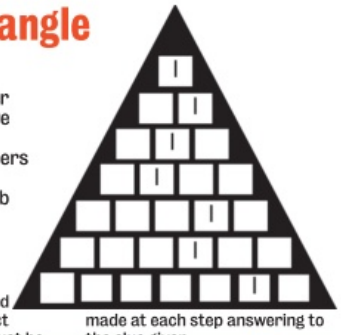
Differences: 1. Picture frame is different. 2. Table leg is different. 3. Necklace is different. 4. Pocket is missing. 5. Lamp is different. 6. Chair is missing.

Riddler

I am seen through many eyes. Even the blind see me. Through me, nothing is impossible. Many stories come from within me. Time can hold still, or move at the speed of light. The unthinkable comes to life in me. I am a wondrous world full of life, or even death. Love can rule, and hate fades out of the picture. Peace can be found throughout and no wars. It is within me where only I can control; no one else can. I am a place that no one can take from you. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Third vowel
2 Two
3 Storage container
4 Google alternative
5 Start
6 Big name in airliners
7 Bright-leaved ornamental shrub

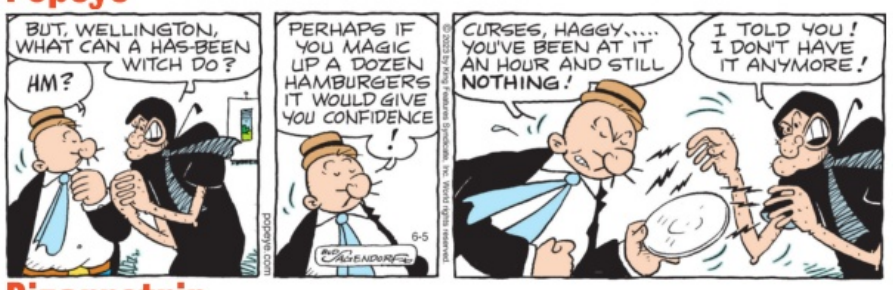


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

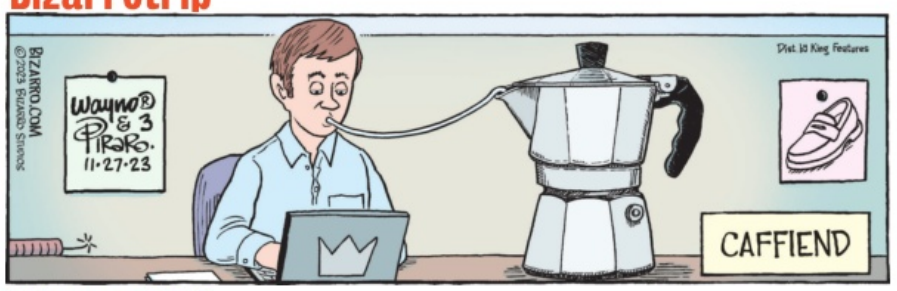
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


BUT, WELLINGTON, WHAT CAN A HAS-BEEN WITCH DO?
HM?
PERHAPS IF YOU MAGIC UP A DOZEN HAMBURGERS IT WOULD GIVE YOU CONFIDENCE
!
CURSES, HAGGY..... YOU'VE BEEN AT IT AN HOUR AND STILL NOTHING!
I TOLD YOU! I DON'T HAVE IT ANYMORE!
6-5

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

QUIET! I'M TRYING TO WORK UP THE COURAGE TO TALK TO DEAN AGAIN.
HAHA!
COURAGE? FOR DEAN?!
SSHHH!
SORRY, BUT WHAT'S THE HOLD UP? YOU TWO ARE CUT FROM THE SAME NERDY CLOTH.
I KNOW! I LIKE THAT HE LIKES THE SAME STUFF AS ME.
BUT I GET THE FEELING HE DOESN'T LIKE ME VERY MUCH, AND I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY.
OH, HE LIKES YOU. HE JUST DOESN'T KNOW IT YET. HE'S A GOOD KID, BUT STILL A DUMB BOY.

Crankshaft

I'VE CRUNCHED THE NUMBERS AGAIN, MIN... AND WITH WHAT I'VE SAVED FROM MY WORK IN THE STARBUCK JONES MOVIES...
I REALLY THINK WE CAN AFFORD TO MAKE AN OFFER TO BUY MONTONI'S!
ARE YOU EXCITED!?
DOES FEELING LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO THROW UP MEAN YOU'RE EXCITED?
IT CAN...
11-27
tombatiuk.com/books
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, situations are under control, and you may feel good. You may plan for an overseas trip. Your network may help you in the work front. You may see some increase in domestic harmony. You may be more creative and may acquire some artefact or other items for the family or office. You may also plan to watch movies or go for an outing with friends or family.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may expect financial gains, which will help you make a balance between your earnings and expenses, and boost your bank balance. You are likely to perform better at your job. Your boss will give you new responsibilities in terms of promotions. You will get back money that was borrowed. You will be able to gain control over your opponents and hidden enemies. Health would be better now.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may plan to renovate your house. You may buy some items to do up your house to maintain your social status. There is likely to be some harmony with the spouse. This creates harmony in domestic life. Disputes with friends, co-workers and partners may also settle down. You may get good news in terms of litigation.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you are blessed by a positive moon. You may feel healthy and old health issues may be cured now. Some amount that was stuck somewhere is likely to be recovered now. You may also apply for a loan to buy some items related to luxury.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by Jupiter, which may give you confidence. You may be able to make important decisions confidently. You are decisive also, so you may grab an opportunity without a second thought. You are likely to spend money on family and friends. Love birds may enjoy happy moments. Job aspirants may likely to get a suitable job with the help of friends.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may have a dull feeling. You may not enjoy your day. You may be a victim of arrogance. it may affect both your professional and domestic life. You may internally feel a lack of confidence, which may stop you from doing something creative at work.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel energetic. You may perform efficiently at work, and your hard work may pay off. This may boost your confidence. Property-related disputes with the siblings are likely to be resolved now. Your meeting with some influential person may boost your network.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which makes you happy. You are likely to get a big order with the help of your communication skills. You are polite with the people around you, and you may make some difficult decisions in the business, with the help of your colleagues.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you are blessed by the moon so it is a good day for you. You feel good vitality and may enjoy work, and romantic moments with spouse. There may be domestic harmony. You are likely to make new plans to start some project. Your perfection may help you design the flow chart. Job seekers will find suitable jobs. Love birds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may be disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance; otherwise you may face some losses due to your manner of speaking while you are talking with anyone. Love birds should be careful in discussion otherwise, their relationship may be get affected.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, there may be peace of mind. You may plan to invest some capital in a business, which may increase liquidity in your business. Your earnings may boost your financial health. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in the family life. Singles are likely to find a suitable match. Love birds may make a decision to get married. Students will be blessed by good karma.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be very happy, and your losses may convert into profits. Your seniors may be happy and appreciate your work. You are likely to see some changes in your place, position or responsibilities at work, in terms of promotions. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control now. Singles and love birds may take important decisions in terms of marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

KIDZONE

Bhumi Chetri, 7 Years, Lawrence High School

Jyotirmayee, 8 Years, Carmel School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
8 [8(9/4)2] / 24 =
8 [72/4 × 2] / 24 =
8 [18 × 2] / 24 =
8 [36] / 24 =
288 / 24 = 12

BULL'S EYE
deny, dyne, lynch, LYNCHED

STRIKE OUT

A	V	I	A	R	Y	B	I	C	E	P	S			
D	N	E	A	G	A	N	D	A						
V	I	K	I	N	G	I	N	D	I	C	T			
I	P		D	E	A	L	S		T		A			
S	C	O	W		R	E	S		B	O	N	N		
E	A	T	E	N		O		A	R	R	A	S		
	B		L	U	L	L	A	B	Y		M			
F	A	U	L	T		I		S	A	F	E	R		
A	L	B	S		S	A	S		N	U	D	E		
B	O		B	U	N	C	H		L		A			
L	E	A	D	E	N		R	E	F	E	D			
E	T		A	U	G	U	R		I		E			
D	U	S	T	U	P		B	O	I	L	E	R		

FAST FIVE

S	N	O	R	T
T	I	G	E	R
I	S	L	A	Y
F	E	E	D	S
F	I	R	S	T

QUICK

		R	G	K		T	Q		R					
	S	H	A	R	A		R	O	U	T	E	D		
A	S	A	N		N	U	M	E	R	A	T	E		
	T		I		N		A			C				
		O			A		P		T		U			
I	N	T	R	U	D	E		B	E	A	M	S		
			E		A				N					
S	P	A	T	S		O	A	R	S	M	A	N		
	L		A		O		I				L			
W	A	L	K	O	V	E	R		H	A	L	L		
	C		I		A		O		A		S			
S	I	N	N	E	R		B	O	R	O	E	R		
	D		G		Y		I		D		T			

QUOTE UNCODE
Life is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.

RIDDLER
Imagination

MENSA PUZZLE
46: start at 1 and work clockwise adding 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18

SUDOKU

7	9	5	3	4	6	1	8	2
8	4	2	9	7	1	6	5	3
6	3	1	8	2	5	7	4	9
1	8	6	4	3	2	5	9	7
4	2	7	5	1	9	3	6	8
3	5	9	6	8	7	2	1	4
5	7	8	1	9	3	4	2	6
9	1	3	2	6	4	8	7	5
2	6	4	7	5	8	9	3	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, Bi, Bin, Bing, Begin, boeing, Begonia.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 2 − 5 + 7 = 13
Medium
9 − 3 × 5 − 2 = 28
Hard
4 / 4 × 2 + 5 = 7

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # It's a boy!
Star couple Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma on Tuesday evening announced the birth of their baby boy 'Akaay'

ABSOLUTELY THRILLED

Is how Janhvi feels to be working with her favourites Ram Charan and Jr NTR

Janhvi Kapoor, a prominent Bollywood actress, is venturing into South Indian cinema this year. She will make her debut alongside Jr. NTR in the upcoming film 'Devara,' slated for release in theatres starting on October 10.

During an interview with iDream Media, veteran filmmaker Boney Kapoor discussed his daughter Janhvi Kapoor's recent ventures. When asked about their response to being offered lead roles opposite Ram Charan and Jr NTR in South Indian cinema, Boney Kapoor shared his insights.

Boney Kapoor revealed that he and Janhvi oten have discussions ranging from films to life in general. He mentioned that Janhvi was thrilled about the opportunity to star opposite both Jr. NTR and Ram Charan, as she has been a fan of both actors and has watched numerous Telugu films.

Boney Kapoor further disclosed that Janhvi has admired both actors for quite some time. He expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to work with them and expressed his hopefulness for her to continue working on similar projects in the future.

In addition to discussing Janhvi's debut in Telugu cinema, Boney Kapoor shared insights into their shared love for food despite having different tastes. The filmmaker also spoke about his appreciation for Telugu cinema, stating that watching films is not just a timepass for him. He enjoys films in various languages, including Hindi, Telugu, English, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada. Furthermore, he praised the actors and actresses of Telugu cinema, particularly his late wife, Sridevi.

—ETimes

Comment section

The announcement of Kiara Advani joining the cast of Farhan Akhtar's 'Don 3' has triggered a wave of disappointment among fans, mirroring the earlier backlash when Ranveer Singh was roped in for the film. The makers released a teaser video introducing Kiara Advani to the franchise, but it faced criticism from netizens expressing their discontent.

The video unveiling Kiara Advani as part of 'Don 3' has grabbed many eyeballs, with fans expressing their preference for Priyanka Chopra Jonas, who played the female lead in 'Don 2' opposite Shah Rukh Khan.

Netizens voiced their disappointment with comments like, "Why Kiara? Take Priyanka Chopra Jonas," and "No SRK, no DON," emphasizing the absence of Shah Rukh Khan in the film.

Farhan Akhtar had earlier faced criticism when Ranveer Singh was announced as the lead actor for 'Don 3' in 2023. The backlash primarily stemmed from the absence of Shah Rukh Khan, who portrayed the iconic character of Don in the previous films of the franchise. The Don franchise has been under scrutiny since the announcement of its third installment, with fans expressing strong sentiments about the casting choices.

The disappointment among netizens highlights the challenges faced by the filmmakers in navigating the expectations associated with a successful franchise.

—ETimes

Sunshine star

Take inspiration from Pooja Hegde's traditional look in a bright yellow Banarasi saree for your next celebratory outing

Watch this story come alive by pointing your phone camera at the QR code

Drop deadstock gorgeous

Hollywood star Cate Blanchett said that her custom made dress for the award event BAFTAs was made out of deadstock.

Deadstock are items that have never been sold and are unlikely to be sold due to a lack of demand.

At the event, the actress was seen dressed in a high-necked crepe-jersey claret dress teamed with a gem-encrusted choker and there was a strong message of sustainability in the creation.

Nicolas Ghesquiere used the fashion house's existing stock to create the gown, which took 150 hours, while Francesca Amfitheatrof, Louis Vuitton's artistic director of watches and jewellery, rearranged gems from older collections, including pearls previously worn by Cate to last year's BAFTAs, in a process described as "creative circularity."

In a conversation with Vogue Magazine, Cate said that "deadstock is not a sexy word."

She added: "But Nicolas used it to make a strong, sexy dress, and Francesca has brought her artistry to the fore yet again to rearrange and redesign a spectacular piece of body jewellery. I'm in awe of them both and relish collaborating with them at Louis Vuitton."

—IANS

Me time, well-earned

Manisha Koirala has shared as to why she slowed down after turning 50.

The acclaimed actress shared that after having a career spanning over three decades. And 100 films, she has "earned" her "me time".

Manisha took to Instagram, where she shared a slew of pictures, which she captioned: "A lot of people ask me what I'm doing these days...some genuinely asking but sometimes it's like asking at 53 you couldn't be doing much...true !!"

She added: "But happy too for I m tasting different flavour of life, doing only those things I love and that means, at times doing absolutely nothing and relaxing with my cats n dogs or with book, music and perusing spiritual learnings, learning to sing and dance, walk in the nature, gymming, globe trotting.."

"After 30 years and 100 films I think I have earned my me time...I work when I know I would love the process of work!!"

The actress, a cancer crusader, said that by the grace of god, good people are around her.

Manisha said: "I soak in their love and care... having lived alone most of my life in a buzzing city with most demanding profession that I absolutely adore yet filled with uncertainty not to forget being a celebrity one has to face too many ups and downs, good and bad people...good media and harmful fake news...without security of supportive circle of people and all alone !!"

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